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Date: 6 Feb

Item: # 12

Ref: #

(SPY SHIPS)

WASHINGTON--THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HAS ASKED SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN RUSK FOR A "FULL DESCRIPTION" OF AMERICA'S NETWORK OF INTELLIGENCE SHIPS LIKE THE USS PUEBLO, INCLUDING DETAILS ON OPERATIONS AND EQUIPMENT OF THE SEIZED VESSEL.

THE SWEEPING INQUIRY WAS SUMMARIZED IN A FOUR-PAGE QUESTIONNAIRE SENT TO RUSK BY CHAIRMAN J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, D-ARK., ON BEHALF OF HIS COMMITTEE. COPIES WENT TO ALL COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT S. MCNAMARA HAS AGREED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE LATER THIS MONTH TO REPORT ON THE PUEBLO INCIDENT BUT FULBRIGHT'S LETTER WENT BEYOND THE PUEBLO MATTER, ASKING FOR A "COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION PLAN" ALSO INVOLVING OTHER VESSELS, THE NAME OF THE "HIGHEST OFFICIAL" AWARE OF DAY-TO-DAY SPY SHIP ACTIVITIES, AND QUESTIONING THE NEED FOR SENDING SUCH SHIPS AS CLOSE AS 13 NAUTICAL MILES TO THE COAST LINE OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

THE LETTER ASKED WHAT AGENCIES HAVE "OPERATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY" FOR THE PUEBLO -- SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THE NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY HAS OVERALL CONTROL AND "WHAT IS THE CIA'S ROLE?" IT REQUESTED COPIES OF "ALL OPERATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS AND MISSION CONCEPTS RELATING TO THE PEOPLE," COPIES OF RADIO MESSAGES OF NORTH KOREA PRIOR TO THE ATTACK ON THE PUEBLO RELATING TO U.S. OR SOUTH KOREAN "HARASSMENTS OR ATTACKS AGAINST NORTH KOREA" AND EXPLANATION OF WHY THE PUEBLO DID NOT HAVE HEAVIER WEAPONS OR A MILITARY ESCORT.

AMONG OTHER THINGS IT CALLED FOR A "FULL DESCRIPTION OF ALL INTELLIGENCE EQUIPMENT ABOARD THE PUEBLO AND AN ESTIMATE OF HOW MUCH WAS CAPTURED."

Comment: Goodwin and Warner have copies.

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the Office of Current Intelligence to the attached item from the news services.

IN CONCLUSION THE INQUIRY ASKED "DOES THE ADMINISTRATION BELIEVE WE HAVE THE MEN AND THE EQUIPMENT TO HANDLE ANOTHER GROUND WAR ON THE MAINLAND OF ASIA WITHOUT THE USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS?" IT ADDED:

"IF SO, ON WHAT DO WE BASE THIS ESTIMATE GIVEN THE PRESENT DEPLOYMENT AND COMMITMENT OF OUR FORCES?"

"IF WE DO NOT INTEND TO USE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN ANY GROUND WAR IN KOREA, SHOULD WE NOT START PROMPTLY TO TAKE STEPS TO REDUCE OUR COMMITMENTS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD?"

FULBRIGHT'S LETTER SAID THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT A LATER TIME. HIS LETTER CONTAINED 20 CATEGORIES OF QUESTIONS, SOME EMBRACING HALF A DOZEN SPECIFIC INQUIRIES.

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